The Perfect Weekend in Miami

A guide to the ultimate weekend in Miami, any time of year, with cocktails by the pool, art walks and Art Deco spotting, and a little Latin flavor.

A weekend in Miami is what you make of it. You can choose unapologetic R&B, simply basking in the sun, cocktails in hand by the beach or pool, marooned at one of Miami’s many design-driven hotels. Or you can experience the pulse of a multi-dimensional metropolis, exploring 1930s to 1950s Art Deco glamour in South Beach and Mid-Beach, big city sophistication in Downtown, avant-garde art installations in Wynwood, shopping in the Design District, and a melting pot of Latin heritage in Little Havana. Given short driving distances between these eclectic neighborhoods, it’s possible to explore Miami’s multiple identities in a weekend without feeling rushed.

DAY ONE: MIAMI BEACH – ART DECO & LIBATIONS

Upon arriving in Miami, make a beeline for Miami Beach. Enjoy some immediate surf and sun time before venturing on an Art Deco safari, taking in the architectural style that put the city on the map back in the 1930s. The most densely populated stretch of Deco is found along Ocean Drive, from Fifth to 18th streets, which also happens to be the beach’s most touristy area. So quickly take in these sights and head for quieter patches of pastels, porches, and turquoise floors, namely those that can be explored outside and in.

Next, call Uber for a ride toward the Wynwood Art District for total immersion into Miami’s mesmerizing modern art scene. Start at the Wynwood Walls, an ever-expanding enclave of artist-commissioned graffiti murals across the walls of warehouse buildings. Pop into the adjacent art galleries, sure not to miss the Margulies Collection at the Warehouse and the Rubell Family Collection, both of which feel like daily celebrations of Art Basel Miami Beach. Check out some of the “Only in Miami” mixed-use spaces like Swyt Gallery, an art gallery and retail store dedicated to fishing and urban-inspired fishing apparel. Caffeinate and people watch at the hipster Panther Coffee or nosh on a killer Cuban sandwich at the no-frills Enriqueta’s Sandwich Shop.